

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
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ATTN PARIS FOR JACK MARESCA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, XC, US

SUBJECT: AUGUST 4 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. ASEAN

REUTER'S MAY (8/3) NOTES US-ASEAN TALKS OPENED/IMMEDIATELY
FOCUSSED ATTENTION ON US ROLE IN REGION AFTER VN. PHILS
FONMIN ROMULO TOLD SECY VANCE REGION CONTINUES BE OF GREAT
STRATEGIC IMPORT. SINGAPORE FONMIN RAJARATNAM SAID ASEAN
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ON SIDE OF US IN GLOBAL CONTEST W/USSR. SECY VANCE
RESPONDED THAT US VIEW OF IMPORT OF ASEAN REGION IS UN-
CHANGED, "IT HAS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY."

WELCOMING MINS FROM 5 ASEAN NATIONS, VANCE SAID US
"STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS OF ASEAN AS
PART OF THE WELFARE AND FUTURE OF SOUTHEAST ASIA." HE

NOTED THAT NO ASIAN REALITY IS MORE STRIKING THAN SUCCESS OF ASEAN IN PROMOTING GROWTH/VITALITY OF REGION/THAT ASEAN IS REFLECTION OF NEW ERA IN ASIA. SEC STRESSED THAT US WANTS HELP--"NOT INTERVENE"--AND IS LOOKING TO ASEAN TO GUIDE US IN THESE EFFORTS.

ROMULO SAID ABDICATION BY US OF ITS RESPONSIBILITIES IN REGION WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY LEAD TO CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE

AT TIME WHEN MUTUAL CONFIDENCE MOST NEEDED.

WP'S OBERDORFER POINTS OUT THAT IN 1ST DAY OF 2-DAY MTG US/ASEAN OFFICIALS TOOK CARE TO EMPHASIZE ECON RATHER THAN MIL TIES/INVOLVEMENT. NOTES ASIAN MINS EXPLICIT/OUT-SPOKEN IN ASKING US TO STEP UP ITS TRADE/INVESTMENT/POL INTEREST IN REGION. VANCE, HOWEVER, GAVE NO COMMITMENTS TO SPECIFIC TRADE/INVESTMENT ARRANGEMENTS BEING SOUGHT BY GROUP.

IN CLOSED SESSION, OBERDORFER SAYS, VANCE GAVE SUPPORT FOR INTL "COMMON FUND" TO STABILIZE COMMODITY PRICES, THO IDEA BLOCKED BY TREASURY. UNDER QUESTIONING FROM MINS, VANCE SAID US HAS NOT BEEN TOLD BY VN "DIRECTLY" THAT PREVIOUS CONDITIONS FOR NORMALIZATION HAVE BEEN DROPPED, SO ADMIN AS YET HAS NO RESPONSE (ALSO BINDER, NYT; AP, BALTIMORE SUN).

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AT 8/3 NATIONAL PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON FOR ASEAN MINS, 18 PERSONS REPRESENTING COALITION OF CHURCH/HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS PICKETED OUTSIDE W/PLACARDS PROTESTING IMPRISONMENT/ABUSE OF DISSIDENT LEADERS IN SEVERAL MEMBER COUNTRIES/CHARGING ASEAN IS "GROUPING OF DICTATORSHIPS" (WP). GUEST SPEAKERS AT LUNCH WERE MALAYSIA FONMIN RAJARATNAM/PHILS FINANCE SECY VIRATA, THO NO PAPER REPORTED ON THEIR SPEECHES.

WP/REUTER MENTION QUESTION POSED TO PHILS FONMIN ROMULO ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS. REUTER (8/3) QUOTES ROMULO THAT FREEDOM FROM WANT MUST TAKE PRIORITY OVER FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. SAID, "WE BELIEVE THE BASIC HUMAN RIGHT IS THE RIGHT TO LIVE. IN ASIA WE HAVE NO OLD MEN'S HOMES, NO OLD LADIES' HOMES. WE DON'T THROW OUR OLD PEOPLE AWAY."

IN OTHER ASEAN DEVELOPMENT, OPIC ANNOUNCED US BUSINESSMEN WILL TOUR ASEAN COUNTRIES BETWEEN OCT 26/NOV 10 TO PROVIDE SMALL/MED-SIZED FIRMS WITH 1ST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES, ACCORDING ACTING PRES RUTHERFORD POATS (REUTER 8/3).

2. KOREA

ROKG DECISION TO PERMIT KIM DONG JO QUIZ BY HOUSE ETHICS CMTE IS WIDELY REPORTED (UPI CHITRIB, JOC; NYDN; AP, GLOBE; NYT'S AYRES). WP'S BABCOCK NOTES CMTE SOURCES DECLIN SPELL OUT SPECIFICS OF ARRANGEMENTS, BUT NO INDICATION KIM'S ANSWERS WOULD BE GIVEN UNDER OATH OR THAT HE WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CROSS-EXAMINATION--"SEEMINGLY VITAL REQUIREMENTS" FOR USING ANY OF HIS INFO FOR DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS. CSM'S STUART OBSERVES THAT KEY FREEING KIM

TO CO-OP W/INVESTIGATORS MAY HAVE BEEN, IRONICALLY, NOT FON-AID PRESSURE OR JAWORSKI'S TOUGH-WORDED DEMANDS, BUT LATTER'S DEPARTURE FROM PROBE.

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ACCORDING GLOUCESTER (MASS) MAYOR, COMMERCIAL SUBSIDIARY OF REV SUN MYUNG MOON'S "UNIFICATION CHURCH" REPORTEDLY HAS BOUGHT "GLOUCESTER LOBSTER CO" FOR 300,000 DOLS (WP).

3. CHINA

IN SECOND OF 2 ARTICLES, UPI (TAIWAN) FINDS TAIWAN GOVT LIVING THRU PERIOD OF DEEP ANGUISH FACED W/FIERCE DETERMINATION TO SURVIVE, AS US MOVES TOWARDS FULL DIPLO RELS W/PEKING. SAYS WK OF TOURING ROC/TALKING W/GOVT OFFICIALS, INDUSTRIAL MANAGERS, PRIVATE CITIZENS REVEALS 2 DISTINCT REACTIONS: DIGUST THAT US IS "IN RUSH" FOR FORMAL TIES W/PRC; AND "POSITIVE" REACTION THAT TAIWAN HAS NO ALTERNATIVE TO LOSING DIPLO RELS WITH US AND CONTINUING "BUSINESS AND USUAL."

4. JAPAN

REUTER (TOKYO) REPORTS SOURCES SAID FRI THAT 9 JAPANESE FISHING INDUSTRY LEADERS WILL VISIT US NEXT WK TO LOBBY AGAINST REDUCTIONS IN JAPANESE FISHING QUOTAS INSIDE US 200-MI ZONE. ACCORDING JAPAN FISHERIES ASSN, LEADERS DUE MEET W/SECY KREPS/ALASKA GOV HAMMOND/CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS DURING 10-DAY TOUR STARTING 8/7.

5. CAMBODIA

DOS ANNOUNCED WEDS THAT US WILL ACTIVELY PURSUE QUESTION OF HUMAN RTS VIOLATIONS IN CAMBODIA AT UN/ELSEWHERE. SAID US WILL SUBMIT INFO TO UN MTG IN GENEVA LATER THIS MONTH, REBUTTING CAMBODIAN CLAIMS THAT THERE ARE NO HUMAN RTS VIOLATIONS THERE. REUTER (8/2) QUOTES STATEMENT ISSUED

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IN RESPONSE TO REPORTER'S QUESTION ASKING WHAT US PLANNED DO ABOUT HUMAN RTS IN CAMBODIA. STATEMENT SAID IN PART: "OUR POSITION ...IS STRONG AND CLEAR; WE ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS THERE." SAID RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY UNHRC WAS "RESULT OF CONSIDERABLE WORK BY THE US AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS."

6. INDOCHINA REFUGEES

WP'S DICKEY (8/3) DOES FEATURE ON ARRIVAL BOAT REFUGEE FROM VN TO JOIN HIS FAMILY IN WASHINGTON AREA. QUOTES TRAN QUOI THAT IN VN HE LED LIFE W/NO TOMORROW. "IF YOU LIVE WITH THE COMMUNISTS," HE SAID UPON ARRIVAL, "YOU ONLY

WORK FOR THEM UNTIL YOU DIE. THEY KILL YOU SLOWLY, NOT DIRECTLY." DICKEY SAYS FAMILY'S STORY SIMILAR TO THAT OF MANY BOAT PEOPLE, EXCEPT THEY WERE ABLE OBTAIN INTERNAL TRAVEL DOCS SINCE HOME WAS NEAR CAMBODIAN BORDER WHICH WAS BEING SHELLLED, AND THESE MADE IT EASIER TO LEAVE HOME.

7. THAILAND

JOC'S LORENZ (BANGKOK 8/3) CITES FON BUSINESSMEN IN BANGKOK WHO SAY OUTLOOK FOR NEW VENTURE IN CAPITAL IN THAILAND NOT PARTICULARLY ROSY, THAT THEY LIMIT NEW VENTURES TO FIVE YRS. NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT AMCHAM OF COMMERCE TAKES MORE POSITIVE APPROACH IN VIEW OF APPLICATIONS FOR NEW INVESTMENT AMOUNTING TO 1 BIL DOLS.

THAI INTL HAS DECIDED PUT GE ENGINES IN NEWLY-PURCHASED BOEING 747S WHICH WILL COST 52 MIL DOLS EACH (JOC BANGKOK 8/3).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

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ACCORDING CONGRESSMAN MCHUGH (NY-D), FON AID BILL IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE BECAUSE IT IS WIDELY ASSUMED FON AID HAS NO CONSTITUENCY. NOTES THAT DIRECT ASSISTANCE TO VN/LAOS IS PROHIBITED, THO US MAKES CONTRIBUTIONS TO WB/OTHER INTL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. POINTS OUT THAT FOR EVERY 1 DOL US CONTRIBUTES TO INSTITUTIONS, THEY

SPEND 2 DOLS TO PURCHASE GOODS/SERVICES IN US. OPINES
FON AID SHOULD BE JUDGED AGNST BROADER REALITIES OF
ECON/POL INTERESTS AS WELL AS TRADITIONAL HUMANITARIAN
VALUES. CONTENDS ECON SELF-INTEREST REQUIRES ATTENTION
TO DEVELOPING NATIONS UPON WHICH US IS INCREASINGLY
DEPENDENT FOR RAW MATERIALS/EXPORT MRKTS. CONCLUDES
FON AID PROG SERVES US INTERESTS/CALLS ON POL LEADERS
IN/OUT OF CONGRESS TO PRESENT CASE MORE EFFECTIVELY
TO DEVELOP CONSTITUENCY FOR IT (NYT 8/2). VANCE

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